



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona State Legislature

Representative Mark Finchem (R-11)

Representative Bret Roberts (R-11)

Senator Vince Leach (R-11)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Legislative District 11 Legislators Release Statement on Tax Conformity

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – Representatives Mark Finchem (R-11) and Bret Roberts (R-11), along with Senator Vince Leach, today released the following statement on tax conformity:

“Since the great recession of 2008, and the hemorrhaging of jobs, capital, and talent from America that we were told, ‘were gone, never to return,’ personal savings are on the rise. What has changed? Common sense, entrepreneurial economic policies have been implemented by the Trump Administration. Let’s not throw a wet blanket on a fire that is keeping us all warm. No matter what the result of our efforts to adopt tax reform with conformity, we are advocating for three significant points:

“1. Through real tax reform and bracket adjustments, we believe it is good policy to keep the tax cuts that President Trump signed into law at the federal level, in the pockets of the people who received relief. Many Arizonans at the lower end of the wage scale, the ‘working poor,’ received an unexpected increase in their federal tax return this year.

“2. We do not want to see the increased teacher raises delivered by the 20x2020 plan, drawn down because of state income tax non-conformity. These middle-class professionals deserve the pay increase; to siphon the federal tax cut away with a state tax increase related to non-conformity is disingenuous.

“3. A vote against tax reform and conformity is a vote for tax increases on the working poor and middle-class professionals and job creators, but that is exactly what our Democratic colleagues say they will do.”

Sen. Vince Leach says, **“Our position has been clear for well over a year - protect the tax relief that Arizonans have received from the federal tax man, and make sure the state tax man does not take it. With over a billion dollars in so-called surplus, driven by sound conservative policy decisions over the last six years, now is not the time to up the ante and**

take even more from Arizona taxpayers. In a recent poll, nearly two-thirds of Arizonans said they feel that they are, ‘taxed at about the right amount,’ with all things considered.”

“Now is the time to empower the people of Arizona to build up their own personal savings accounts, not the state’s so-called rainy-day fund. The menu of plans that have been discussed would protect the wage increases we have funded for increased teacher pay,” says Rep. Mark Finchem. “The menu of plans involves full conformity with meaningful tax reform simplification and holds harmless most wage earners.”

“For some, there is a slight tax increase, for many others, there is a significant tax decrease, but we support a policy that is as close to net-neutral as possible,” says Rep. Bret Roberts. “Now is the time to put taxpayers first.”

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CONTACT:

Matthew Specht
Director of Communications
House Majority Staff
602-926-5518
mspecht@azleg.gov

Mike Philipsen
Director of Communications
Senate Majority Staff
602-926-3972
mphilipsen@azleg.gov